

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OSLO 03373 121611Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EURE-00 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 072966

P R 121506Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7092

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCLANT

USDOCS AFNORTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OSLO 3373

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT NO

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN ELECTIONS: SOCIALIST MAJORITY CONFIRMED

REF: OSLO 3358

BEGIN SUMMARY. A LABOR PARTY MINORITY GOVERNMENT NOW SEEMS ASSURED. REFINEMENT OF THE VOTE COUNT FROM NORWAY'S GENERAL ELECTION MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE PARTIES ON THE SOCIALIST SIDE HAVE AT LEAST A ONE SEAT MAJORITY. PRIME MINISTER KORVALD HAS INDICATED THAT HE DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE AN EARLY RESIGNATION, HENCE THE GOVERNMENT SHIFT SHOULD OCCUR DURING THE FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER. FUTURE PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI HAS AGAIN RULED OUT DISCUSSION OF A
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OSLO 03373 121611Z

COALITION GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. MANY OF THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE FIRST 24 HOURS AFTER NORWAY'S GENERAL ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED, AND THERE REMAINS ALMOST NO DOUBT THAT A LABOR PARTY MINORITY GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE OFFICE BY MID-OCTOBER.

2. WHATEVER THE FINAL VOTE COUNT MAY SHOW, A SOCIALIST MAJORITY IS NOW DEFINITE. AT THE MOMENT THE SOCIALIST-NONSOCIALIST SPLIT REMAINS 78-77, AND ONLY TWO SEATS ARE STILL IN QUESTION. THERE IS A SLIGHT CHANCE THAT LABOR COULD REGAIN ONE SEAT FROM THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY IN TROMS AND LOSE A SEAT TO THE SOCIALIST ELECTORAL ALLIANCE IN BERGEN; NEITHER CHANGE WOULD AFFECT THE OVER-ALL RESULT.

3. PENDING CLARIFICATION OF THESE LAST TWO RACES, THE BREAKDOWN OF SEATS BY PARTIES IS AS FOLLOWS (NUMBER ELECTED IN 1969 IS SHOWN IN PARENTHESES):

LABOR PARTY	62 (74)
CONSERVATIVE PARTY	29 (29)
CENTER PARTY	21 (20)
CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY	20 (14)
SOCIALIST ELECTORAL	
ALLIANCE	16 (0)
ANDERS LANGE'S PARTY	4 (0)
LIBERAL PARTY	2 (5) (SEE NOTE)
NEW PEOPLE'S PARTY	1 (8) (SEE NOTE)
TOTAL	155 (150)

NOTE: IN 1969 THE LIBERALS ELECTED 13 MEMBERS WHO SPLIT 5-8 WHEN THE NEW PEOPLE'S PARTY WAS FORMED AT THE END OF 1972.

4. WITHIN THE SOCIALIST ELECTORAL ALLIANCE (SV), NINE OF THE 16 NEWLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ARE FROM THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY, SIX FROM THE "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS-AIK", AND ONE FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THEY WILL TRY TO OPERATE AS ONE PARTY GROUP WITHIN THE STORTING OR WILL REASSUME THEIR INDIVIDUAL PARTY LABELS. (THEIR FIRST TACTICAL DIFFERENCE HAS ALREADY EMERGED. FINN GUSTAVSEN, CHAIRMAN OF SV AND ALSO OF THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY, HAS SAID THAT SV LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 OSLO 03373 121611Z

DOES NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, OF WHICH THE CHAIRMEN OF ALL PARTIES ARE TRADITIONALLY MEMBERS. COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN REIDAR LARSEN, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAYS HE SEES NO REASON FOR THE LEFTISTS TO EXCLUDE THEMSELVES FROM THIS ASPECT OF PARLIAMENTARY WORK).

5. REIULF STEEN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE LABOR PARTY, HAS APTLY CHARACTERIZED THE ELECTION AS A "POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE".

LABOR'S HEAVY LOSSES, THE NEAR DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ONCE-POWERFUL LIBERAL PARTY, THE STRONG SHOWING OF THE FAR LEFT, AND THE SUCCESSES OF THE FAR-RIGHT ANDERS LANGE'S PARTY ALL SERVE TO DOCUMENT STEEN'S VIEW. SUBSTANTIAL DISAFFECTION FROM TRADITIONAL PARTY LOYALTIES IS FURTHER ILLUSTRATED BY THE USUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO SIMPLY STAYED AT HOME. THE NATIONWIDE TURNOUT OF 78.1 PERCENT WAS THE LOWEST SINCE 1945. IN OSLO, THE TURNOUT WAS ONLY 74 PER CENT, AS OPPOSED TO 85.4 PER CENT IN 1969.

6. PRIME MINISTER KORVALD YESTERDAY CLARIFIED HIS INTENTION OF REMAINING IN OFFICE UNTIL OCTOBER, RATHER THAN RESIGNING IMMEDIATELY. HE HAS STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL DRAFT THE THRONE SPEECH (WHICH KING OLAV WILL READ AT THE FORMAL OPENING OF THE NEW STORTING, THEN RESIGN IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD.

7. ANY DISCUSSION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS AGAIN BEEN RULED OUT BY THE LATEST STATEMENTS OF LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN TRYGVE BRATTELI. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ARBEIDERBLADET, BRATTELI SAID HE BELIEVED IN BROAD COALITION GOVERNMENTS ONLY IN VERY SPECIAL SITUATIONS, SUCH AS DURING THE WAR; THERE IS NO CRISIS AT THE MOMENT, HE SAID, EVEN THOUGH THE SITUATION IS QUITE COMPLICATED. LABOR'S REALIZATION OF THE PROBLEMS AHEAD WAS CONFIRMED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE LABOR PARTY STORTING GROUP, WHO TOLD AN EMBOFF TODAY THAT THE "CASE BY CASE" METHOD IS GOING TO MEAN THAT LABOR WILL HAVE TO LINE UP ITS SUPPORT ON EVERY SINGLE ISSUE IN ADVANCE IN THE CORRIDORS, WITH DEBATE ON THE FLOOR OF THE STORTING BECOMING INCREASINGLY A FORMALITY.

8. SPECULATION NOW CENTERS ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW BRATTELI CABINET. THERE WILL DOUBTLESS BE PRESSURES FOR SELECTION OF MEMBERS WITH GREATER APPEAL TO THE LEFT.

BUCHANAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 OSLO 03373 121611Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, COALITION GOVERNMENT, PARTY STRENGTH, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OSLO03373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730940/aaaabddg.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: OSLO 3358
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <02-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORWEGIAN ELECTIONS: SOCIALIST MAJORITY CONFIRMED
TAGS: PINT, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005